



Commission of Food Security, Heritage, and Economy

Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 8:00 a.m.
1st Floor Conference Room, Tucson City Hall
255 W. Alameda St., Tucson, Arizona 85726

Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. There was a quorum.

Attendance was as follows:

Present:

Robert Ojeda
Sam Alboy
Maribel Alvarez
Kara Jones
David Ludwig
Dora Martinez
Daniel McDonald
Gary P. Nabhan
Chet Phillips
Cie'na Schaepli
Kris Vrolijk (arrived 8:20)
Kelly Watters
Debbie Weingarten

Absent:

Vanessa Bechtol
Jesus Garcia
Erika Mitnik-White
Douglas Taren

Staff Present:

Lisa Markkula, Secretary

Representing:

Community Food Bank of S. AZ
Local First Arizona
Southwest Folklife Alliance
Community Food Bank of S. AZ
Pima County Health Dept
Pima County Food Alliance
UA College of Ag and Life Sciences
Native Seeds/SEARCH
Southwest Folklife Alliance
Pima County Food Alliance
Local First Arizona
Pima County Food Alliance
Community Food Bank of S. AZ

Representing:

Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance
Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum
Local First Arizona
UA College of Public Health

Mayor's Office

2. Action: Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes reviewed. Corrections: Dour Taren should be Doug Taren and on the 2nd page, delete "a" in front of criteria. Upon motion and second, corrected minutes approved unanimously at 8:07 a.m.

Action: David Ludwig made a motion to approve the minutes. Sam Alboy seconded, and the minutes were approved with 12 votes. Jesus Garcia, Vanessa Bechtol, Kris Vrolijk, Erika Mitnik-White, and Doug Taren were absent.

3. Standing Item: UNESCEO City of Gastronomy Update

Jonathan Mabry (JM) presented on various issues, copy attached.

The Creative Cities Network has 116 member cities in 54 countries. JM reviewed the objectives and obligations connected with Tucson's City of Gastronomy designation, which include submitting a progress report every four years, an action plan for the next four years, a minimum of three local projects and three international projects. Gary Nabhan is helping to collect UNESCO-required baseline data now for use in reporting four years from now.

An excerpt from the UNESCO application was presented as a draft for discussion of a mission statement. JM will bring a Word file next time and send something out prior to the meeting to develop this further. Dr. Ron Spark (a guest of the mayor) wanted to see food and health included. Lisa Markkula pointed out that many mission statements are short and easy to remember.

JM reported that a UNESCO conference is being planned for Tucson this fall. He also shared that Visit Tucson told him they've received several million in free media already thanks to the designation.

A main point of the presentation was the need for the mayor to appoint an interim management entity. Also discussed was the need for a long-term management entity and who could fulfill that role – to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Gary Nabhan said that this will take multiple discussions to resolve and in the meantime, the deadline to apply for interns from the UA is next month.

Maribel Alvarez echoed the many tasks involved (budgeting, etc.) and the need to assign them to responsible parties.

Robert Ojeda wanted, for the next meeting, to look at what assets already exist in the community.

Dr. Ron Spark suggested looking at how other cities managed.

JM offered that the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance board decided that they were willing to vote a new board in, with a new name, and have that entity use their existing 501(c)(3) status.

Maribel Alvarez pointed out that a new nonprofit would grow beyond being a management entity for the designation.

Lisa Markkula said that one option might be for the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance to vote the CFSHE board as the new board, giving CFSHE nonprofit status, which might help in applying for certain grants.

Chet Phillips offered that his organization could provide student interns.

JM recommended that the mayor appoint a small group to serve as the interim management entity, as he was uncomfortable making unilateral decisions.

Debbie Weingarten asked how other cities managed. JM described what other U.S. cities had done, none of which he thought was realistic for Tucson due to the city's budget constraints.

Debbie Weingarten asked how other cities managed use of the logo.

Maribel Alvarez pointed out that having staff to manage work flow was different from setting up a new nonprofit.

Robert Ojeda suggested that at the next meeting we look at assets in this group.

Gary Nabhan said that the group could set criteria for use of the logo and others could police that.

Action: Maribel Alvarez moved and Kris Vrolijk seconded that CFSHE support the mayor's appointing an interim advisory body. Motion passed unanimously. Jesus Garcia, Vanessa Bechtol, Erika Mitnik-White, and Doug Taren were absent.

Maribel Alvarez suggested creating a list of tasks from the UNESCO application and assigning who is responsible for doing what.

5. Discussion: Nominating agency and membership vacancies

At 9:16, Robert Ojeda told the group that the YWCA had sent a letter requesting to join CFSHE as a member.

Chet Phillips said that he was interested in including TUSD's food service as a member.

It was suggested that a few more names of organizations be brought forward before discussing new members and that Ryan Anderson bring all the information on appointing new members to the next meeting.

Gary Nabhan suggested CFSHE set categories for membership and post the opportunity.

Robert Ojeda suggested the group think about organization and said that he would send the Y's letter to the group. Organizations that are interested can send a letter to Ryan Anderson.

6. Presentation by Dan McDonald on Formula Funding for Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

At 9:01, Dan McDonald began his presentation.

He distributed a draft letter for consideration by the group as well as a copy of his PowerPoint presentation (attached). EFNEP helps low-income Arizonans stretch their food dollars by teaching them various strategies, such as using coupons, shopping produce in season, menu planning and reducing waste. Arizona receives the lowest per-person allocation of these funds of all 50 states, because the formula is based on states' allocations in 1981.

Action: Kelly Watters moved and Chet Phillips seconded that CFSHE recommend that Mayor and Council send a letter urging that the allocation formula for EFNEP be changed. Motion passed unanimously. Jesus Garcia, Vanessa Bechtol, Erika Mitnik-White, and Doug Taren were absent.

7. Call to Audience/Announcements

No comments were received by audience members.

Chet Phillips announced that the campus pantry has new cold storage space in the Student Union, which will be a great benefit to students, faculty and staff at the UA. There will be a ribbon cutting on the 21st and they hope to have the mayor attend.

Elizabeth Eaton, a reporter for the Arizona Daily Star, announced that she was doing a long-form piece on the designation and what various groups are doing that would run at the end of the semester and would appreciate an opportunity to speak to CFSHE members individually.

Sam Alboy said that he has retired from Mama's Hawaiian Bar-B-Cue and has started Concierge Magazine, a quarterly publication that includes community events. Submissions should be geared toward visitors.

Kelly Watters requested a future update on the sick leave issue from the sick leave stakeholder group.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

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